1	2	3
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	163454
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	5347
13.	Orissa	14990
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh (U.T.)	153706
15.	Rajasthan	100754
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry (U.T.)	214716
17.	Uttar Pradesh	71364
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nikobar Islands and Calcutta)	97453
19.	Delhi	0
	TOTAL	1985250

Functioning of Telephones in Nalanda Exchange (Bihar)

113. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone connections in rural areas under Nalanda Exchange, (Bihar) remain out of order for weeks together and concerned officers even after being aware of the fault do not take any action;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any complaints in this regard particularly from the subscribers of Gajraj Bigha;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against the erring officials; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the telephone connections under Nalanda Exchange run satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No Sir. Usually all faults are cleared within a week. One complaint was

received from the subscriber of Gajraj Bigha (Number 81896) on 7.11.99 and was set right on 13.11.99 *i.e.* within a week.

(c) Not required in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) To minimise the over-head alignment it has been planned to lay under-ground cable in Nalanda exchanges which will provide satisfactory service.

Opening of Village Public Telephone in Arama, Nalanda District (Bihar)

114. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether village public telephone, Arama, District Nalanda, Bihar was ordered closed by DET, Bihar Sharif immediately after its opening;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above VPT was closed under pressure from Union Leaders, Telecom Circle, Patna due to business rivalry;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get it investigated so as to expose the high handedness of the officers of the Telecom Deptt.;

(e) what steps Government have taken on the representations received from MPs for opening the above VPT; and

(f) by when it would be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The VPT has been closed temporary on account of a complaint about the selection of site and the operator. It has not been closed under pressure from union leaders.

(d) to (f) The matter is being investigated. Efforts are being made to resolve the issue expeditiously.